Royston

Urban District Council.

REPORT

For the Year 1900,

— BY —

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have the honour to present to the Council my Annual Report for the year 1900.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The total number of deaths registered within the district is 59, which, as usual, must be corrected by a substraction of deaths not belonging to the district, viz.: 17, which occurred chiefly in the Union Workhouse, and by an addition of 2 belonging to the district which occurred in the Three Counties' Asylum, making a corrected total of 44, equal to a death-rate from all causes and at all ages of 11·4 per thousand living per annum. The rate for the previous year was 16·0. The death-rate for England and Wales for the same period is given as 18·3 in the summary of the Registrar-General contained in the appendix to his report for the last quarter of the year; the saving of life has occurred at all groups of ages, but the greatest saving has been under one year, even after making due allowance for fewer births.

No deaths due to the chief zymotic diseases have been registered during the year.

Influenza has caused two deaths.

The total number of births registered is 63, equal to a birth-rate of 16·3 per thousand living per annum. The birth-rate in England and Wales for the same period is given as 28·9.

Infantile mortality, as represented by the ratio of deaths of children under one year of age to 1,000 registered births is 47, which indicates a decrease of infantile mortality of nearly two-thirds over that of the previous year.

The deaths from Phthisis are much fewer than those of the previous year, and the death-rate from this disease is 1·29. The rate for the previous year is 2·3. Deaths from Cancer, on the other hand, are more than double the number of the previous year; the death-rate from this disease is for the years 1899 and 1900 respectively 0·77 and 1·81. There has been a decrease of deaths due to disease of the respiratory organs.

Registration Sub-District.	Registered Deaths belonging	Addenbrooke's Hospital.	Share of Workhouse.	Three Counties Asylum.	Corrected Total.	Death-rate.
Royston	39	—	3	2	44	11·4

DISEASE INCIDENCE.

The only infectious diseases which have been notified are five cases of Erysipelas, and one of Scarlatina. The single case of Scarlatina was that of a draper's assistant, who, there was some reason to believe, "caught" the disease from a customer; it should be stated, however, that a previous case had been present in the patient's home some two years before; but such sanitary precautions were taken on that occasion as to preclude the probability of a survival of infection.

Representatives of the Joint Hospital Board for the Royston Urban, and Ashwell and Melbourn Rural Districts respectively, which was established by Provisional Order at the close of the year 1898, held an informal conference with the

Medical and Architectural Departments of the Local Government Board at Whitehall, on Thursday, January 4th, and alterations in the building plans were suggested, and the plans as altered were sanctioned by the Local Government Board. The Joint Hospital Board agreed at their last meeting that, as the cost of the whole scheme was so large, a portion only of it should be proceeded with, viz: the administrative block, one ward block, laundry and mortuary, together with the necessary fencing and drainage.

WATER SUPPLY.

One of the wells dug at the Water Company's New Works not yielding a sufficient supply a third well has been commenced which it is hoped will yield a supply sufficient for all purposes. A new reservoir capable of containing three days' supply has been constructed on "Devil's Head." Five-hundred-and-sixty-two yards of 3in. main have been laid in Melbourn Road and Garden Walk; also the main in Baldock Street has been exended to the Workhouse, a distance of 144 yards.

DRAINAGE.

The District Council, in order to provide against the danger to the purity of the water supply at the Company's extension works, by cesspools in the London Road and to provide for the drainage accommodation for an expansion of the town, especially Mill Road, where undesirable cesspools are a necessity, applied for sanction to borrow £500 to meet the cost, and an Inquiry was held at Royston on September the sixth at which evidence in support of the application was offered. The necessary sanction is, however, withheld on the ground that the present area is insufficient to deal satisfactorily, by the system of broad irrigation, with the volume of sewage now taken to the farm, or may be expected to reach it in the near future, and that it is therefore desirable that a combined system of chemical precipitation and irrigation should be adopted. At the invitation of the Highways, Drainage and Building Committee I accompanied them over the Farm as well as

some adjacent land; and having regard to the expensive and troublesome system of chemical precipitation and the nasty accumulation of sludge, which is a consequential result, I advised that it would on all grounds be much the best to acquire another and larger area of land and dispose of the sewage exclusively by broad irrigation; which advice was adopted by the Committee and subsequently by the Council.

In consequence of complaints from several residents of a row of cottages in an alley off Baldock Street of smells from a ventilating shaft to a drain discharging sewer gas near the line of windows; the shaft was lengthened so as to debouch above the eaves. Several complaints have also been made of bad smells arising from the surface sewer-ventilators, and the subject has been referred to the Highway and Drainage Committee. A nuisance caused at the entrance to "The Cave" by overflow of sewage from a blocked drain in the neighbourhood has been abated by the clearing of drain.

A nuisance having been caused near the Police Station by the overflow of a drain due to a blockage of the public sewer the sewer was, under the direction of the Surveyor, opened and cleared.

The urinals at many of the public-houses have been put into a good state of repair, and in several instances new urinals have been provided.

In several instances nuisances on private premises caused by privies, or improperly constructed pail closets, have been abated by the substitution of w.c's. connected with the sewer.

The proposal for extending the sewerage to London Road and Melbourn Road has been favourably received by the Urban District Council, but has yet to receive the sanction of the Local Government Board.

REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

There is a regular system of scavengering under the supervision of the Surveyor.

POLLUTION OF STREAMS AND WATERCOURSES.

There are no streams in the District and the only

water-course is the ancient public drain or "Town Ditch," which had at one time received sewage but now carries only the surface-water and eventually joins the Public Sewer near the Sewage Farm. There has been before the Council a project for putting in glazed pipes along part of its course on account of the slipping of the sides.

PREMISES REGULATED BY SANITARY AUTHORITIES.

The Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milkshops have been regularly inspected, and cleaning and lime-washing ordered where needful. In consequence of a report by the Inspector of Nuisances that the cowsheds in the District did not conform to the conditions as to ventilation, lighting and drainage required by the By-Laws, the Council directed the Inspector to serve notices on the occupiers requiring them to adapt their premises accordingly; in each instance the occupiers have used their best endeavours to comply.

The Bake-houses and Slaughter-houses have been regularly inspected and found to be in good order.

An application for a licence to use as a slaughter-house certain premises situate on Fish Hill was not granted. No nuisance as to the improper keeping of pigs have been reported.

Numerous vans on the Warren have been inspected, but no serious nuisance has been discovered.

A case of over-crowding has been inquired into and reported on by the Medical Officer of Health and the nuisance abated by the voluntary removal of the family.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

It will be seen that the Statistical Tables required by the Local Government Board have been completely altered. I hope that the explanatory notes will suffice to make them intelligible. Table II. is omitted by direction of the Local Government Board as needless for small and undivided Districts. The Inspector's record of work is appended hereto.

BUSHELL ANNINGSON.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ROYSTON.

Inspector of Nuisances' Report for Year 1900.

Animals removed, being improperly kept	0
Complaints received	12
Cottages repaired	3
Cesspools abolished	2
Drains cleared out and repaired	4
Dung heaps removed	4
Houses inspected	200
,, newly erected	6
New Closets erected	6
,, Drains made	6
Notices to abate nuisances	12
Nuisances abated on notice or admonition ...	24
Traveller's vans visited	40
Visits to slaughter-houses, bake-houses, dairies and cow-sheds...	40

W. J. WEBB,

Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE I.

For the Urban District of Royston.

Table showing Vital Statistics for the year 1900 and the antecedent three years.

Year.	Population at the time the District was formed.	Births.		Deaths under one year of age.		Deaths at all ages. Total		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	Deaths at all ages nett.	
		Number.	*Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	*Rate.				Number.	*Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
†1897	3857	89	23·0	6	67	57	14·7	13	14	1	44	11·4
1898	3857	71	18·4	11	135	58	15·0	6	3	1	56	14·5
1899	3857	88	22·8	11	125	79	20·4	18	19	2	62	16·0
Averages for years 1897–99	3857	83	21·5	9	108	65	16·7	12	12	1	54	14·0
1900..	3857	63	16·3	3	47	59	15·3	20	17	2	44	11·4

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of population.

† District constituted in this year.

Note.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the substraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in column 11.

By the term "Non-resident" is meant persons brought into the district; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district and have died elsewhere.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water .. .. Not known.

Total population at all ages .. .. ..
Number of inhabited houses .. .. ..
Average number of persons per house .. ..
} At Census of 1891. { District not constituted.

TABLE III.

The Urban District of Royston.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1900.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.						
		At Ages—Years.					
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15to 25	25to 65	65 and upw'ds
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Membraneous Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	6	..	..	1	..	4	1
Scarlet Fever	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Typhus Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	7	..	..	2	..	4	1

Note..—There is no Isolation Hospital for the use of the Sick, except at the Union Workhouse, which used to be available for the District generally, but it is now restricted to the use of Paupers.

TABLE IV.

The Urban District of Royston.

Causes of Death at several age periods during the Year 1900.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 15.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever.. Typhus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever.. Enteric	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever.. Other continued ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Cholera..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa. (see notes at back) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis. (See notes at back) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipleas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other septic diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis	5	..	1	..	..	3	1	1
Other tubercular diseases.. ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer malignant disease.. ..	7	..	..	..	..	2	5	..
Bronchitis	3	1	1	..	..	1	..	..
Pneumonia	4	..	1	..	..	3	..	1
Pleurisy	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other diseases of Repiratory organs.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcholism. Cirrhosis of Liver ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases & accidents of Parturition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart diseases	5	..	..	..	1	1	3	..
Accidents	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Suicides	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Murders	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All other causes	15	2	..	..	1	3	9	3
All causes	44	3	4	..	2	15	20	5

See Notes at back.

NOTES.

(*a*) The deaths of residents occuring beyond the limits of the district are included in this table, and deaths of non-residents occurring in the district are excluded. *See* note on table I. as to meaning of "Residents" and Non-residents."

(*b*) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions have been allotted to the respectative localities according to the addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars, and, in addition, have been classified under "Public Institutions."

(*c*) Under the heading of "Diarrhœa" are included deaths certified as from diarrhœa, alone or in combination with some other causes of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from

Epidemic enteritis;
Zymotic enteritis;
Epidemic diarrhœa. Summer diarrhœa;
Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhœa;
Choleraic diarrhœa, cholera, cholora nostras (in the absence of Asiatic cholera).

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are included those certified as Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis and Gastric catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term "Diarrhœa."

Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease have been included under the latter.